

LAND RIGHTS MATTER FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

BURMA, LAND RIGHTS AND USAID

Burma is undergoing a period of historical transition with the electoral victory of the National League for Democracy in 2016 representing a change after fifty years of military rule. Burma has a profusion of antiquated and poorly harmonized laws related to land and forest rights, as well as a widespread lack of legal documentation and awareness of those rights by its rural citizens who represent 70% of the population. At the same time, the country's recent economic opening has led to concerns that extractive and agribusiness investments may undermine the land tenure and property rights of this rural population.

USAID recognizes the critical role of land in building a robust and inclusive economy, promoting democracy, and improving the livelihoods and well-being of Burma's people. As a result, USAID's Tenure and Global Climate Change (TGCC) Program is supporting inclusive land policy and legislation development in Burma, as well as piloting of participatory mapping processes using low cost mobile applications to secure tenure (MAST). TGCC increases dialogue between local government, communities and land-related stakeholders.

HOW DOES USAID HELP?



**POLICY
BEST PRACTICES**

Burma's first National Land Use Policy (NLUP), which is largely based on international best practice such as the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure, was endorsed by Burma's government in January 2016, following three years of drafting and extensive, inclusive public consultations. USAID provided technical assistance and logistical support for communities and local CSOs to engage with the policy development process. USAID has subsequently supported integration of the NLUP best practices into Investment Law, Agricultural Policy, Agricultural Development Strategy, Community Forestry Instructions, Livestock Policy as well as specific land laws, as opportunities arise.



**PARTICIPATORY
MAPPING**

Over twenty CSOs have been introduced to integrating mobile applications to secure tenure into participatory mapping processes, and USAID is directly working with seven CSOs to pilot community land rights documentation across seven sites in four states/regions, to address diverse land governance challenges such as land conflict, wetland management, land use planning, and disaster risk reduction planning.



**MOBILE APPLICATIONS
TO SECURE TENURE**



**MULTI-STAKEHOLDER
DIALOGUE**

USAID has supported over 60 multi-stakeholder events reaching over 2,000 participants across the country related to policy development, awareness, and piloting. In addition to policy dialogue, USAID has supported communities to use maps to engage with local governments through constructive dialogues.



**REDUCING
DEFORESTATION**

USAID is collaborating with the Forest Department on documentation of land tenure rights of smallholder farmers and communities on forest lands within the Permanent Forest Estate, and is supporting multi-stakeholder dialogues around how best to secure the rights of current occupants through participatory mapping methods.

PILOTS TO INFORM POLICY

NATIONAL

Promoting national level understanding of Land Use Policy and lessons learned from pilots through CSO engagement and training of Members of Parliament, as well as bringing lessons learned from pilots.

NAYPYITAW

Supporting government as well as CSOs to engage in land-related legislation and policy. Providing technical assistance to the Agricultural Policy Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

AYEYARWADY

Supporting two CSOs, Badeidha Moe and Pyoe Khin Tint Foundation to work on participatory mapping, as it relates to land conflict, as well as disaster risk reduction planning.

SAGAING

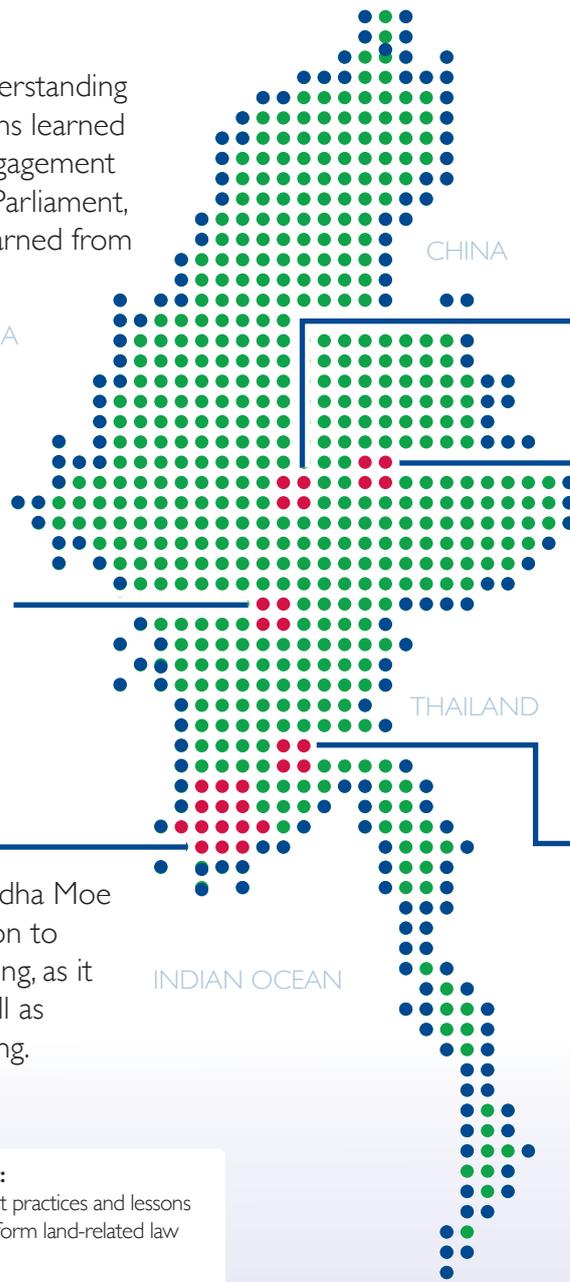
Working with Upper Chindwin Youth Network in Kale District to use participatory mapping to support land conflict resolution. USAID also supported the dry zone of Sagaing.

SHAN

Pilot work with upland communities on Department of Forest lands has mapped boundaries and community forestry options. Engaged with MIID on community mapping to support land-use planning in a wetland area.

BAGO

Pilot in Minhla Township assisted three village tracts to map their community boundaries and land uses, and engage in dialogue with local government over recent land allocations.



National Government:

Provide international best practices and lessons learned from pilots to inform land-related law and policy development.

Local Government:

Support CSOs and communities to engage constructively with main land management institutions (MONREC, MOALI and GAD) on local land governance issues.

Local CSOs:

Financial support for multi-stakeholder dialogues processes, and technical training in participatory mapping and mobile applications to secure tenure (MAST).

International Donors:

Play a leading role in donor coordination.

Community Members:

Increase local awareness of land rights through outreach and increasing local demand for transparency of land information and recognition of community rights to land through the evidence of community maps.

